Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of December 16, 2002 to December 20, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Manufacturing Shipments	October			In October, Canadian manufacturing shipments increased by 0.1%, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. This increase was mainly attributed to higher prices for petroleum and coal products, as well as to a recovery in the wood products industry. Three provinces recorded a decrease in manufacturing shipments in October: Saskatchewan (-0.4%), Quebec (-1.0%) and Alberta (-2.0%). Seven provinces experienced increased shipments, led by Prince Edward Island (6.1%) and New Brunswick (4.8%).
($ millions)				
Alberta	3,473	-2.0%	5.2%	
Canada	44,224	0.1%	8.7%	
Wholesale Trade	October			In October, wholesale trade in Canada increased by 0.6%. This increase was driven by the strong sales of automotive products (3.6%). Discounting this sector, overall wholesale sales would have been relatively flat (–0.1%). Five provinces recorded an increase in wholesale sales, led by New Brunswick (6.0%) and Nova Scotia (4.5%).
($ millions)				
Alberta	3,572	-0.7%	2.0%	
Canada	35,538	0.6%	8.8%	
Consumer Price Index	November			In November, the Canadian CPI rose 0.2% from October. Compared to the abnormally low base in November 2001, the index rose by 4.3%. This rise was led by price increases in alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+18.1%) and transportation (+9.7%). Alberta's monthly increase was 0.5%, with a 9.7% increase from November 2001. The large year over year increase is attributed to artificially low energy prices in November 2001 due to natural gas rebates and the drop in gasoline prices in the wake of September 11, 2001. As well, recent increases in tobacco taxes and auto insurance premiums have pushed Alberta's index higher.
(1992=100)				
Alberta	127.9	0.5%	9.7%	
Canada	120.8	0.2%	4.3%	